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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CEA-01	CEQ-01	SJK-01
	COME-00	CTME-00	DINT-05	DOEE-00	DPR-01	DS-00	EB-01
	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01
	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01
	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	EPAE-00
	/094W						

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P 272301Z NOV 91
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0590
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 18323

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, PINR, PTER, ASEC, EPET, ENRG, CO
SUBJECT: LATEST PIPELINE ATTACK SPILLS 10,000 BARRELS

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REF: BOGOTA 17432

1. (U) IN ONE OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN)
GUERRILLA GROUP'S WORST TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST
ECOPETROL'S CANO LIMON-COVENAS CRUDE-OIL PIPELINE THIS
YEAR, 10,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE WERE SPILLED WHEN
INSURGENTS BLEW UP A SEGMENT OF THE PIPELINE IN
TRESAGUAS (NEAR SAN CALIXTO), NORTE DE SANTANDER
DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE NOVEMBER 25
ATTACK FORCED A HALT IN PUMPING. THE SPILLED CRUDE
CONTAMINATED THE ORU RIVER, A TRIBUTARY OF THE CATATUMBO
RIVER, WHICH EMPTIES INTO VENEZUELA'S LAKE MARACAIBO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 5 NOV 2002 200201334

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2. (C) OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SECURITY SPECIALIST RAUL JANER TOLD POLOFF LATE NOVEMBER 27 THAT PUMPING STILL WAS SUSPENDED, AWAITING REPAIR OF THE DAMAGE, WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 28. HE SAID CLEANUP CREWS WERE CONTINUING TO WORK OVERTIME TO LIMIT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. JANER BLAMED THE ELN'S CARLOS ARMANDO CACUA GUERRERO FRONT, WHICH OPERATES IN THE AREA OF THE ATTACK.

3. (C) COMMENT: OCCIDENTAL, WHICH BUILT AND HELPS OPERATE THE PIPELINE, HAS BEEFED UP SECURITY AROUND ITS PUMPING STATIONS AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS TO GUARD AGAINST THE INCREASE IN ELN SABOTAGE CONNECTED TO THE ONGOING GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE, BUT THERE IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT SUCH SABOTAGE AGAINST THE GREAT EXPANSE OF THE PIPELINE ITSELF. END COMMENT.

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